

Charter School for Applied Technologies  
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 1/12/2021**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person,** David Quackenbush, John Cinquino, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, Steve Kottakis, Danielle Salasavage **Via Teleconference:** Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, Karen Kelley, Andrea Pasieka, Michael Stevens

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Kenneth Robinson

**OTHERS PRESENT: In person:** Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Robert Shannon, Susan Jurewicz, Anthony Favata, Thomas Sullivan, Lindsay Bergman, Daniel Scholze, Keith Banas. **Via Teleconference:** Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Nicole Killian

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the December 8, 2020 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**PRESENTATION**

**Greenhouse Initiative-**Mr. Shannon presented an overview of CSAT's Greenhouse and the activities that take place there. It is an active Greenhouse with student and community involvement. COVID has made it difficult in recent months. Our Greenhouse Director, Cinde Cozad, has done an outstanding job in elevating the Greenhouse activities since her hiring. She has more than 30 years of experience and is a certified master gardener. In a series of slides, Mr. Shannon explained that the Greenhouse is 75% hydroponics, meaning that plants grow without soil in a liquid nutrient solution. It should be noted that CAST is the only Charter School in this area with a Greenhouse. The following is a list of current and future projects/goals that the Greenhouse is undertaking:

\*Grades K-1 plant projects will go home with the students and an online curriculum in PowerPoint will be provided for online learners.

\*Video lessons and projects with grades K-5 Project Lead the Way teachers.

\*Continued outreach to all grade levels to incorporate greenhouse lessons tailored to current standards in math, science and technology.

\*Participation in New York State's Endangered Species cultivation programs which opens opportunities to collaborate with Tiff Nature Preserve and Buffalo Zoo.

\*Future engagement with local community gardening groups and Riverside coalition to provide urban and container gardening classes.

\*Increase local community engagement to local and national organizations such as Farm to Table and Urban Farmers.

Mr. Berti commented that he has been a visitor to the Greenhouse and can attest to the great work that happens there. He also described how Ms. Cozad help to revive a plant that he thought was dead. Mr. Berti presented a generous gift from Speed in the amount of \$500 and encouraged others to consider a gift to the Greenhouse.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Cabinet Report-** Mr. Lyle began his report by introducing Lindsay Bergman, CSAT's Athletic Director. Lindsay has been participating in ongoing professional development as was recently recognized as a Certified Athletic Administrator. Congratulations to Lindsay!

Mr. Lyle discussed the testing protocol that CSAT is following. After CSAT was able to partner with the Ken-Ton School District to serve as our medical director, we obtained test kits prior to Christmas break. Our nurses were trained in administering the BinexNOW rapid tests and we recruited nursing students from D'Youville College to assist in the testing. The tests are administered to students on Tuesdays & Thursdays and to staff on Wednesdays. The first round of testing began on January 5 at the High School. To date, we have had no positive tests. As students return to the Elementary School and Middle School at the end of January, the testing numbers will obviously increase.

As for the vaccine, New York State just announced that educators, who are in Phase 1B, can now receive the vaccine. The roll-out is a bit delayed at the moment, but more sites should be available in the next week or two.

Mr. Quackenbush asked if we had a choice in the type of tests. Mr. Lyle said we did not, but that the tests we are administering are not as invasive as the initial tests.

### **Principals Report-**

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz stated that grades K-3 are slated to return in hybrid form on January 25 and grades 4 & 5 after the February break. Our transition plan is in place and we are putting the final touches to the building to be ready on January 25. We will conduct COVID-19 testing in the library.

6-8: Mr. Favata reports that grade 6 will return in hybrid form on January 25. They will be in session on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There will be limited transition in the building. We have built in P.E. each day to provide students a needed break. We are planning to have grades 7 & 8 return in small groups in early February. COVID-19 testing will take place in the school clinic.

9-12: Ms. Morgante said that those 9<sup>th</sup> graders who needed additional help were in school last week and that sophomores and juniors are in this week. COVID-19 testing is being conducted in the music room. Mid-terms will happen in the next two weeks. We will have all SPED & ELL students in school to take their mid-terms. When we return from February break, we will be in a full hybrid model in all grades.

Mr. Lyle indicated that New York State has made no decision yet on state assessments.

Mr. Quackenbush asked about how CSAT will access the educational model with remote and hybrid learning.

Mr. Lyle indicated that this is an important part of our assessment that will give us a better indication of what the future of education may look like.

### **PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE**

**Career Readiness**-Mr. Berti reported on the recent Career Readiness committee meeting in which the members discussed re-aligning the school's focus to encourage and develop relationships with the private sector in order to strengthen our career pathways program. The committee also discussed the issue of college persistence of CSAT graduates from freshmen to sophomore year. In regard to the Pillars to Pathways proposal, Mr. Lyle mentioned that the school continues to evaluate how we can focus on skills development in order to establish clear and concise programming that will reach all student in grades K-12.

Mr. Quackenbush mentioned his recent conversation with M & T Bank and their potential interest in partnering with local schools to encourage careers in information technology, which in turn could be a project for the Foundation.

Mr. Donnelly volunteered his home renovation as a learning opportunity for CSAT students interested in careers related to renovation.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Appeals**- No report

**CSAT Foundation, Inc.**- Mr. Quackenbush indicated that the Foundation has been in contact with the Cullen Foundation and will meet later this month with the Oishei Foundation. There was also a recent donation to the Foundation.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Enrollment**- Mr. Loveria mentioned that the current enrollment is down slightly from last month, though we have had several new registrations in the last few days. He also asked the members to review pages 9 & 10 which details the marketing efforts we are currently undertaking with a focus on SPED & ENL learners.

**Personnel**- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report, which is little changed from last month, with the exception of several layoffs in food service.

A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel report made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Motion approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to move to Executive Session at 5:40pm was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Motion approved. No action requiring Board vote arose. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:15pm was made by Mr. Kottakis, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

**Next Meeting: February 8, 2021, 4:30pm**